

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:  
receiving compensation from a plurality of participants;  
presenting a business entity to the participants;  
5 deciding, based at least upon a first vote of the participants, to perform a first review of the business entity; and  
presenting the results of the first review to at least one of the participants that voted in favor of performing the first review.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
10 deciding, based at least upon a second vote of the participants, to perform a second review of the business entity; and  
presenting the results of the second review to at least one of the participants that voted in favor of performing the second review.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first review and the second review  
15 are due diligence reviews of the business entity.
4. A method comprising:  
(A) receiving compensation from a plurality of participants;  
(B) identifying a business entity; and  
20 (C) causing the business entity to assign an equity interest in the business entity to at least one of the participants.
5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising  
obtaining from the business entity a right to purchase an equity interest in the business entity.
- 25 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein (C) comprises exercising the right to purchase to the benefit of the at least one of the participants.
7. The method of Claim 4, further comprising  
causing value to be provided to the business entity.

- (C).
8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the value is provided in exchange for
  9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the value comprises a service.
  10. The method of Claim 7, wherein the value comprises funds.
  - 5 11. The method of Claim 7, wherein the value comprises goods.
  12. The method of Claim 7, wherein the value comprises the results of a review of the business entity.
  13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the value further comprises the providing of the results to at least one of the participants.
  - 10 14. The method of Claim 7, wherein the value comprises the introduction of the business entity to the participants.
  15. The method of Claim 7, further comprising providing the value to the business entity.
  16. The method of Claim 7, wherein the value is provided by a third party.
  - 15 17. The method of Claim 4, further comprising obtaining an agreement from the business entity that the business entity assign an equity interest in the business entity to at least one of the participants.
  18. The method of Claim 4, further comprising evaluating the interest of the participants in the business entity.
  - 20 19. A method comprising:  
receiving compensation from a plurality of participants;  
identifying a business entity;  
obtaining an equity interest in the business entity; and  
25 transferring a portion of the equity interest to at least one of the participants.
  20. A method comprising:  
(A) identifying a plurality of participants;  
30 (B) identifying a business entity;  
(C) presenting to the participants, in conjunction with an identification of the business entity, the option to cast votes in support of an activity;

- (D) receiving at least one vote cast in response to (C);
- (E) accepting at least one received vote; and
- (F) receiving compensation from at least one of the participants.

5           21.     The method of Claim 20, wherein the compensation is received from each of the participants that cast accepted votes.

          22.     The method of Claim 21, wherein (F) is performed in association with (E).

          23.     The method of Claim 20, wherein the compensation is in the form of a prepaid retainer.

10           24.     The method of Claim 23, further comprising  
                  for each of the participants that cast accepted votes, deducting, in association with (E), an amount from the participant's prepaid retainer.

          25.     The method of Claim 20, further comprising  
                  providing, in association with (E), the results of a review of the business  
15           entity to the participants that cast accepted votes, wherein the review is the activity.

          26.     The method of Claim 20, further comprising:  
                  (G) determining that at least a minimum number of votes have been cast;  
                  and  
20           in response to (G), causing a review of the business entity to be performed, wherein the review is the activity.

          27.     The method of Claim 26, further comprising:  
                  providing the results of the review to the participants that cast accepted  
votes.

28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the review comprises a due diligence review.
29. The method of Claim 26, further comprising performing the review.
30. The method of Claim 26, wherein a third party performs the review.
- 5 31. The method of Claim 30, wherein the third party is an outside expert resource.
32. The method of Claim 20, wherein at least one participant casts a plurality of votes.
33. The method of Claim 20, further comprising
- 10 causing the business entity to assign, in association with (E), an equity interest in the business entity to the participants that cast accepted votes.
34. The method of Claim 33, wherein the equity interest comprises stock.
35. The method of Claim 33, wherein the equity interest comprises stock options.
- 15 36. The method of Claim 33, wherein the equity interest comprises stock discounts.
37. The method of Claim 33, wherein at most a maximum number of votes are accepted.
38. The method of Claim 20, further comprising
- 20 obtaining an agreement from the business entity that the business entity assign some interest in the business entity to the participants that cast accepted votes.
39. The method of Claim 20, further comprising:
- 25 obtaining from the business entity a right to purchase an equity interest in the business entity; and
- exercising the right to purchase to the benefit of the participants that cast accepted votes.
40. The method of Claim 20, further comprising
- causing value to be provided to the business entity.

41. The method of Claim 40, wherein the value comprises the results of a review of the business entity.
42. The method of Claim 40, further comprising providing the value to the business entity.
- 5 43. The method of Claim 40, wherein the value is provided by a third party.
44. The method of Claim 43, wherein the third party is an outside expert resource.
45. A method comprising:
- 10 (A) presenting, to a plurality of participants, a conditional offer to provide the results of a review of a particular business entity;
- subsequent to (A), receiving acceptances of the offer from at least one of the participants; and
- subsequent to (A), causing the review of the business entity to be performed.
- 15 46. The method of Claim 45, further comprising deciding to cause the review to be performed based at least upon the number of acceptances received.
47. The method of Claim 45, further comprising performing the review.
- 20 48. A method comprising:
- (A) accepting a vote from a participant; and
- (B) receiving, in association with (A), compensation from the participant wherein value is provided to the participant in association with (A).
- 25 49. The method of Claim 48, wherein the vote is cast by the participant in support of an activity.
50. The method of Claim 48, wherein the value is provided by a third party.
51. The method of Claim 48, further comprising causing a third party to provide the value.
- 30 52. The method of Claim 48, further comprising providing the value.

53. The method of Claim 48, wherein the value comprises the results of a review of a business entity.

5 54. A method comprising:  
identifying a plurality of individuals;  
receiving compensation from each of the individuals;  
identifying a plurality of companies; and  
providing, to each of the individuals, the results of a due diligence review  
of each of the companies.

10 55. A method comprising:  
identifying a plurality of individuals; and  
providing, to each of the individuals, an offer to provide, in exchange for  
compensation, the results of a due diligence review of each of a plurality of  
15 companies.

20 56. The method of Claim 55, further comprising:  
receiving an acceptance of the offer from each of the individuals;  
receiving compensation from each of the individuals; and  
providing, to each of the individuals, the results of a due diligence review  
of each of a plurality of companies.